Northwestern University Community,

A major worldwide Information Technology security vulnerability named Heartbleed, was disclosed on Monday, April 8, 2014. The vulnerability affects a large portion of websites on the Internet, including systems at Northwestern University.

The potential exploit allows information such as usernames, passwords, and other normally-protected data to be compromised. We are fortunate that although Northwestern had some systems with exposure, the vast majority of campus systems and our core infrastructure were not vulnerable to the attack.

The IT community at Northwestern took immediate steps in order to limit the exposure of campus systems.

At this time, we are not recommending that your NetID password be changed. We continue to analyze our systems and the recommendations from our vendors. We will notify the community separately if a password change is recommended for Northwestern-related accounts.

This vulnerability has a global reach and we urge all community members to pay close attention to your personal user accounts across the Internet. Please follow the guidance of the online service providers you utilize, whether they be social media, banks, online shopping sites, etc. as the vulnerability related to their specific service may warrant a password change. Please contact the providers of those related services if you have any questions or concerns.

We will continue to provide additional information, as required.

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